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### THE CLOVER SEED MIDGE.

GRAND BLANC, Aug. 9th, 1888.  
To the Editor of the Michigan Farmer.  
DEAR SIR:--The clover weevil has reached us in good earnest in this county, and I dare say in many parts of the State. It is the same little pest which has kept the clover from seeding in Western New York for the past few years, and has given us a market for our surplus. I noticed its work here for the first time late in the season of 1887, about time of cutting seed, and this year it will affect the crop from one-quarter to one-half. As far as I have observed it is rather worse in fields which were cut late for hay; at least one-half the heads in such fields will never bloom for seed, and one-half the remainder will throw out a few germs which bloom and mature. A casual glance would not give a suspicion of its presence in a field, and one would think the heads had gone to seed; but upon examination the heads appear bluish green, few or no blossoms in sight, and by cutting into the heads or pods a small, pinkish-yellow maggot is found where the seed should be. To what extent the damage may reach this year I am unable to state, as I have been close at home during haying and harvest, but will visit Lansing to-morrow and take notice there. The chances are for a total failure next year; at least that is the case in Western New York, where thousands of bushels of Michigan seed have been sold last year since the failure there from the same cause.  
D. P. DEWEY.

Prof. W. J. Beal, of the Agricultural College, in his valuable work on "Grasses of North America," which every farmer should have in his library, has the following to say about this pest:

This is not only one of the most alarming of our clover pests, but may be regarded as one of the most to be dreaded insects now infesting the valuable crops of the United States. It not only does very serious damage, but is spreading with great rapidity. Prof. Lintner first discovered it in a limited area in Eastern New York. Now--1885--it is known to exist in Virginia, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Ontario, Michigan, and all through New York. The fact that the insect may remain in the seed, and thus be carried with it any distance, adds to the dangers threatened by this comparatively new pest. The eggs are oval, pale yellow, and only .025 m. (.01 of an inch) long. The larva or maggot varies from white to dark orange or orange-red. It is when full grown 2 m. (.12 inch) long.

The pupa is orange, with brown eyes. It is found in a tough silken cocoon with more or less earth sticking to it. The flies resemble closely the wheat midge, C. tritici. The abdomen is red, thorax brownish-red. The antennae are 15-jointed in the male, and 16 in the female. The wings are hairy, the palpi and ovipositor each four-jointed. The male is about 1.5 m. long, the female about 3 m. The male expands about 3.5 m., the female 4 m. The size varies a little. The dark scales obscure the red color, so that the flies appear dark. Underneath the color is yellowish-gray. As with the wheat midge and Hessian fly the ovipositor and clasp organs are very prominent.

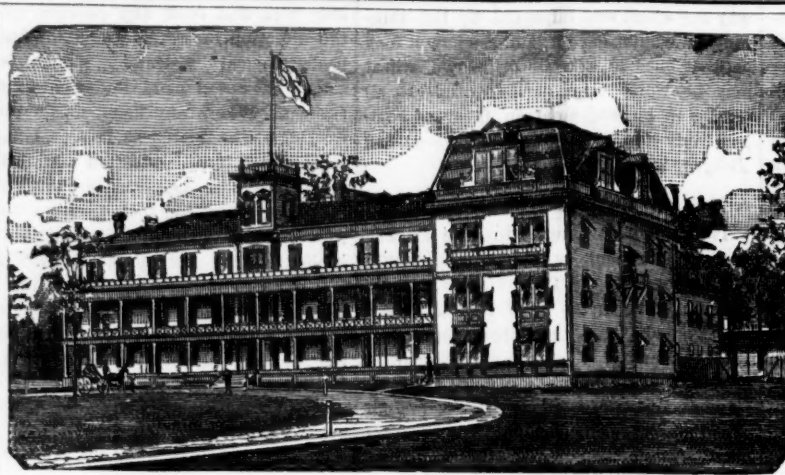
The eggs are pushed, by means of the ovipositor, down into the heads of red and white clover, and lodged between the hairs that surround the separate florets. They are not glued nor placed in the florets. As with the Hessian fly, the eggs may be laid singly, or in groups of two, three, four or five. As many as 50 eggs are sometimes placed in a single head of clover.

The larva attacks each seed as much as does the wheat midge each wheat kernel. After absorbing the life from the seed the larva, like the maggot of the wheat midge, leaves the seed and wriggles till it escapes from the seed head and falls to the earth. Often the head of clover seems alive as a maggot pushes from nearly every seed in its effort to reach the ground. The pupa is found in its cocoon just beneath or under the earth, under some protecting leaf, etc. The flies have been seen in New York in May, August, and quite likely some flies may issue in October. There are three or two broods in New York, and possibly three. There are certainly three farther south. The larva will be seen full grown in the seed at the north in May, in July, and again in September. They probably pass the winter as pupae.

Of late the larva have been found in seed in the market. This is an unwelcome fact, and explains the rapid distribution of these insects.

The only remedy suggested is deep plowing when the larva are yet only partly grown. It has been suggested that abandoning clover for a time might be wise. That this will suffice is hardly to be expected. There is enough wild clover to prevent the extermination or any great diminution of these insects. We can hope more from parasites. Already Mr. Howard finds Erythronia funebris and Platygaster erigeri engaged in this good work. Success to them and may their tribe increase.

If seed is found stocked with the larva it should be put into a close vessel, as a jug or barrel, and bisulphide of carbon added. This will kill the larva post haste. Even an open barrel, water tight, may be used by placing a buffalo robe, or other air tight cover, over it. The fact that this insect is as far west as Michigan, and possibly as far as Illinois, makes it a matter of general interest. In the future, clover seed will be valuable.



The Somerville School, St. Clair, Mich.

### VARYING METHODS OF FARMING.

One of the incitements to the novice in agriculture, lies in the unfixedness of methods, which is universal. Each practice is wrong in the eyes of some person, and the inborn egotism of individuals nourishes a conceit that he is the happy possessor of the true principle, the practice of which shall bring unvarying success. It is amusing to listen to these unemployed farmers who have stumbled upon some theory, and have absorbed it. Like water in a sponge, the idea excludes everything else. When you have squeezed them with some unconsidered question, and wrung them dry by applying some hard facts, they present about as forlorn an appearance as a sandy field after a dry season. It is an act of mercy to such to be instrumental in casting out their evil possessions, rather than to allow it to possibly culminate into actual practice. There is enough agricultural heresy afloat, sent out and kept under full sail by farmers themselves without resurrecting all the buried theories of the past which were once considered true.

In extension of the different beliefs and practices held and kept up by farmers, is the fact that they control only a part of the factors that figure in the transaction or transformation from the seed to the harvested crop. During all this period nature is attempting to correct the errors which the elements, or the unsatisfactory conditions to which man has subjected it, and to carry it forward to approximate perfection. Thus a thoroughly bad system is assisted and supplemented by a propitious season until it reaches the semblance of success. The difference will be so small that, from wide or separated comparisons, either in time or by distance, the better practice and poor farming are accepted as equally effective in producing crops. Yet along the line of the best endeavor lies the highest average of success, and it is very encouraging to the future of farming that systems are assuming more regularity in methods on similar soils. An interchange of sentiment among farmers in social clubs and granges has generated a tendency toward uniformity in practice.

There is still some divergent opinion regarding the method of applying manure, whether to handle it as fast as made when practicable and spread it on the field, or to await for the general manure hauling team, and then apply it to the most needy fields or parts of a field and plow it in at once. I know two thoroughly practical farmers who practice these two opposing ways. One hauls his manure as early in spring as possible and invariably spreads it as fast as drawn on either pasture or meadow lands, while the other hauls it just before planting corn or sowing wheat and applies it to fields already somewhat reduced by frequent cropping, depending upon the soil to restore the lost fertility. The one applies manure in order to make good land better, and the other depends upon manure to bring up and renew soils worked to the point of giving out entirely. The one has got ahead of the emergency which requires manure to grow the crop, while the other depends upon large supplies to insure remunerative harvests. There is another point to consider in these two practices. While the one retains and utilizes all the strength of each application, it is a question if the other does not lose much of its value through unused and unappropriated elements because in excess of the companionable elements necessary to a complete growth of the plant, the unappropriated parts escape along with the descending rains to unrecoverable depths. I believe this latter assumption to be true. And further, I believe that there are no additions to the fertile elements of manure that accumulate in the pile by decomposition; but rather that waste begins with fermentation and ends only when the manure is spread. To secure all waste the application should be upon plants already established in the soil and hungry for the food thus supplied. Grass lands and sod ground present the most favorable conditions for the economical application of manure. The summer accumulations in the yard make a good surface application for wheat after plowing and before seeding, which will tell on future crops to a greater or more enduring extent than any other method.

There are other dissimilar methods in the degrees of ripeness which are considered proper and necessary before beginning to harvest the crop. Some farmers wait until all the stalks are yellow for fear of immaturity of the grain; while others commence to cut when only a part of the stalk has

turned and the berry is yet soft. The best argument for the latter method is the fact that when a farmer has once broken away from his old opinions regarding the proper time to cut grain and has adopted early cutting, he never falls from grace, but his mistakes, if any, are in cutting too green rather than the other extreme. There are two or three days at the beginning of harvest which are more important than any of the others. If they are employed in cutting as early as is practicable, or as soon as the lower joints of the straw are turned, the crop can be secured with the least loss from shelling and the greatest amount of nutriment in the field; while, if the two or three days are spent in waiting for the sun and winds to dry out the juices, the latter part of the labor is performed in a very unsatisfactory manner. I have known showmen apparently to wait for the early beginner to complete his harvest and to drench the later cuttings. If I have any superstitions at all, they are the fear of untoward events to follow a failure to "get there" in good season.  
A. C. G.

### FEEDING FOR THE SHOW RING.

The effect which high feeding for the show ring has upon breeding stock is a topic often discussed, and upon which breeders themselves have very diverse views. At breeders' meetings, where bits of actual experience are detailed, it is wonderful how different are the results with different men. Here is a breeder who insists that his stock--cattle, sheep or hogs--breed better and do better when in good flesh than when thin. Others corroborate his statements, and another man, equally as reliable, and endorsed by fully as many others present, tells of total failures every time he has attempted to breed from deep-fleshed animals. And so the question stands, both parties positive that they are correct, and the young breeder involved in a maze of doubts which will cost him some money, to settle to his own satisfaction. Cattle breeders discuss this problem more and are more at variance regarding it than those interested in other stock. Of course a hog or a sheep may be sacrificed with less expense than a fine young bull or heifer, hence it does not affect breeders of those classes of stock to such an extent financially; but even they, in the case of choice animals, would undoubtedly like to know to just what extent high feeding can be carried without affecting the breeding powers of their animals. Now, there must be some method by which animals can be put into good show shape and yet not injure their value as breeding stock. We know this is done in numbers--instances in this State, and among different breeds. In the grand lot of Herefords owned by Messrs. Merrill & Field, of Bay City, the prize cows Lovely and Greenhorn always cause breeders to shake their heads and regret that they have been spoiled by over-feeding. Yet we know that these two animals are not only regular breeders, but that they gain time every year. And if one thinks their progeny suffers, a look at some of their produce will dissipate the belief in a moment. Each of these cows has given their owners some of the choicest things they have had from this herd. And we know many Shorthorn cows which carry a wealth of flesh and yet are hearty, vigorous, and regular breeders. On the other hand we have seen animals of both sexes and some of them valuable ones, completely ruined by being fitted for the show ring. Why this difference? We believe it to be in the nature of the animals themselves. If an animal naturally, and with its normal condition, and will not affect its procreative powers. But on the other hand, if an animal is inclined to be thin in flesh in its natural condition, and its conformation is such as to preclude its ever carrying much flesh except when highly fed with that object in view, such feeding is nearly sure to result in barrenness and to shorten its life. This theory may be shown to be incorrect in individual cases, but it will be found true in a majority. Of course there is a great deal in the methods of feeding followed. If fat rather than flesh is produced, the result is nearly always disastrous. Flesh is healthy live tissue. Fat is really dead tissue, and does not give strength to its possessor. The animal which is slow to take on flesh is finally crowded with heat, fat-producing food, and becomes barren as a natural consequence. The animal which is always in good condition does not need this forcing, and escapes its consequences.

These remarks were called out by the fol-

lowing from a correspondent of the *Mark Lane Express* on "Feeding for the Show Ring."

"As one who has had yearly practice with both sheep and cattle for thirty years, allow me to give my experience--not an opinion. We will take it for granted that the male is never too fat as long as he is able for his work and is a sure stock-getter. In fact I would always prefer a sire well fed from his youth upwards to the animal calculated to produce the best and most vigorous stock. The controversy therefore centers in the female, and I hold that few cows or heifers can be used to present show-yard form without it proving prejudicial to themselves and their offspring. A cow after she is full grown will stand making-up without further harm than shortening her years of breeding, but heifers fed to excess as yearlings and two-year-olds seldom do the herd much credit in after years. No doubt there are notable exceptions, which may be pointed to by those who advocate the contrary, but, as a rule, the fattening up of females has a decided tendency to make them bad milkers, barren, and short lived."

This writer's theory is not a new one, but it is a singular one. The belief that a well fed sire and a poorly fed dam are the requisites for prolificacy seems based upon the same idea that the Irishman had in feeding his pigs so as to produce a streak of fat and a streak of lean--a feast one day and starvation the next.

In the best breeds of cattle an animal which will not carry a good coat of flesh without injuring its breeding qualities is not a desirable one to breed from, and is sure to be of weak constitution or suffering from some organic disease. In the case of heifers not bred as early as usual, high feeding will of course be more generally injurious than with mature cows which have been regular breeders. But we do not believe that any rule can be laid down which will always produce the same results with all animals. It needs both care and experience, and a knowledge of the individual animals under his care to enable the breeder to know how each one should be fed to put them in that condition he thinks best suited to their well-being.

### BLACK ROT AND MILDEW.

A dispatch from Vineland, N. J., under date of August 3d, says that the experiments which have been conducted the present season on Colonel A. W. Pearson's farm under the supervision of the United States Government, have resulted in some valuable and important discoveries, particularly regarding the culture of the grape. Professor Scribner, of the Agricultural Department, who has spent some days there, expressed satisfaction as to the results already attained. It has been demonstrated that spraying the vines frequently with a solution of sulphate of copper and lime, known as "Bordeaux mixture," will effectively prevent both mildew and black rot. The spraying was begun on the Pearson farm on May 25, and effectually prevented the rot where the clusters were exposed to the spray. Microscopic examination revealed the fact that the berries, after spraying, were encased by a metallic coating, which protects the grape until washed off by heavy rains or cracked by growth. The department recommends that the spraying be commenced a week or two previous to blooming, or about the middle of May. Experiments are now being made with a view to finding preventives of fungus on the foliage of apples, pears and cherries. The "Bordeaux mixture" is prepared as follows: Dissolve 10 lbs. of sulphate of copper in 20 gallons of water; in another vessel scale 30 lbs. of lime in six gallons of water. When the latter mixture has cooled, it is slowly poured into the copper solution, care being taken to mix the fluids thoroughly by constant stirring. It is well to have this compound prepared some days before it is required for use. It should be well stirred before applying. Some have reduced the ingredients to two pounds of sulphate of copper and two pounds of lime to 20 gallons of water, and have obtained good results. Well made pumps with specially constructed nozzles are required for the application of this compound, unless we resort to the tedious and wasteful method of using brooms or wisps made of slender twigs, which are dipped into the compound and then switched right and left so as to spray the foliage.

### English Milling and English Wheat Raising.

Another point, in all respects discouraging to the cultivation of wheat in England, is found in the complete revolution during the last ten years in corn milling machinery described by Mr. W. Proctor Baker, of Bristol. There has been in fact, not a mere substitution of one machine for another, or of one series of machines for another, but there has been a change of the principle and mode of procedure. The old system of "low grinding" by millstones, so well calculated for producing flour from soft, tender wheats, such as are produced in England, has been entirely superseded by the Hungarian and American "gradual reduction" process by "roller mills." Not only does this system require the wheat to be dry, hard and brittle, so as to secure the requisite cracking and gradual reduction, but anything in the form of a soft or moist wheat is most injurious to the machinery and the products. It rolls into a paste, steam is generated, and the flour works into balls, becomes attached to the rollers, turns sour, and in fact, throws the entire process out of gear. "It is because of these troubles that owners of mills

on a large scale will not employ native English wheats in damp seasons. No concession of price is sufficient inducement to them to risk the disorganization of the mill, and probable loss of reputation by turning out inferior, irregular flour." There are, however, two modes in which these wheats may be used--first, by submitting them to an artificial drying process; and second, by mixing them with some description of very brittle wheat, and allowing the mixture to lie for some weeks, until the brittle wheat absorbs some of the moisture of the native wheat, to the mutual advantage of both--*Science*.

### THE SOMERVILLE SCHOOL.

Some time ago we referred to the great advantages offered by this school to parents who wished to give their daughters a thorough education coupled with sound health. A visit to it by parents who have daughters to educate will be all that is needed to impress them with its superior advantages.

### AMERICAN LARD IN ENGLAND.

We clip the following from an English paper of late date:

"Attention continues to be directed to the vast scale on which fraud is being practiced in the manufacture of so-called 'American lard.' Two prosecutions, followed by convictions, took place at Wednesday last week, the stipendiary indulging in some severe remarks about this system of robbing the English people. 'The disclosures first made by Mr. Campbell Brown, the Liverpool analyst, have been followed by others equally startling. Mr. Carter Bell, the Cheshire County analyst, informed the Quarter Sessions at Chester that this rubbish is being sent to this country in 'millions of pounds.' Mr. Bell has examined some samples of the new 'article of commerce,' and his statement is that in many cases the preparation is 'entirely composed of cottonseed oil and stearine.' All makers, of course, do not carry the fraud quite to this point; but where genuine lard is used at all, it appears in most instances to be very sparingly employed. This is a very serious matter for the British farmer and the public. It is not, of course, alleged that pure American lard has wholly disappeared from the market. It is to be had in abundance, and consumers have it in their power to secure for more than a fair chance in the competition with the counterfeit or compound article."

There is a bill now pending in Congress, which contemplates the prevention of the sale of a compound of the products of cattle and cotton seed oil as lard. Of course the manufacturers of this compound are opposing the bill, and as one of the arguments against its passage say that the manufacturers of pure lard are in the habit of converting diseased hogs and pregnant sows into their choicest brands of pure lard. In an investigation which took place lately, a St. Louis manufacturer of the pure lard admitted that he had used diseased hogs in the manufacture of his pure lard, but claimed as a justification that he had to do this to successfully compete with the cotton seed oil adulterators. This is a nice state of affairs. Does any one wonder that European nations look with suspicion on the American hog or its products, or that they should adopt laws to protect the health of their people by excluding these vile compounds of the unscrupulous American manufacturer?

The bill now before Congress will probably die in committee, and will be supplemented by a general one, covering adulterations of all kinds. It cannot be made too stringent or passed too quickly.

### Indian Wheat.

Prof. Robert Wallace, Professor of Agriculture and Rural Economy in Edinburgh University, Scotland, after four months' investigation of India the past summer, gives as his opinion that the fear of competition from that source has been largely exaggerated. He says it is a mistake to think that the Indian area in wheat will increase in the next ten years in the same ratio as it has in the past five years. It will increase gradually, but the difficulties in the way will prevent any such development of exports as has caused so much alarm of late. The late rapid growth of the wheat crop has been due to the fact that much of it was produced on land previously occupied for some other crop. This substitution cannot go on much longer, for the teeming millions of that empire must have food to live on, and only in the newer parts of the country can the wheat area be much further extended. There are great difficulties in the way of developing new sections in that country. First, because it is hard to get workmen to settle in new districts; and secondly, there is want of money, a want of the necessary extra supply of power. Again, since wheat requires reasonably dry land, failures must occur every few years in the moist climate of that country. A continuous growth of wheat on lands heretofore cropped with leguminous plants, such as clover, etc., is also tending to exhaust the soil, and the yield of wheat per acre is bound to diminish. Prof. Wallace concludes by warning people to beware of Indian wheat statistics, which are not compiled from returns made by practical wheat growers, and are based to a considerable degree on guesswork.

### AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION IN FRANCE.

What Has Been and Is Being Done to Encourage a Taste for and a Knowledge of Agriculture.

PARIS, July 15, 1888.

The population of France is close on 38,000,000; of this total, 21,000,000 are engaged in agriculture, a profession in which one hundred millions of francs are invested. France is a country of small cultures; the general size of farms is a mean average; large holdings are rare. What measures are taken to instruct these millions in their calling, and how do such work? It was only about 1790 that legislators gave a serious thought to agriculture. It was then proposed to nominate a special minister to take charge of that important branch of national wealth. Later, other projects were mooted, as the founding of farmers' societies, prize meetings and practical instructors to make known the advantages of sowing wheat in autumn.

Prussia was earlier in the field, as Frederick II. between 1763 and 1788 expended 160,000 francs on agricultural schools, and yet Prussia both in climate, soil and resources was much inferior to France. Indeed after the battle of Jena, in 1806, Prussia, although defeated and numbering but 7,000,000 of population, immediately founded the famous agricultural school at Moeglin, with Thier for director. Talleyrand presented to the Constituent Assembly a project for agricultural education, and Lavoisier applied his chemical discoveries on Ventenote estate. But it is to F. de Neufelleau must revert the honor of suggesting the Agricultural Institute or University in 1800, and which was realized half a century later.

The revolution and the Napoleonic wars left France no time for the arts of peace. The restored Bourbons did nothing for agricultural education. The only effort in that sense during their reign, was by Mathieu de Dombasle, whose name is a household word with French farmers. In 1818, he established at Roville, near Nancy, a kind of experimental and model farm of 260 acres, with difficulty obtained by subscription a sum of 45,000 fr. to work his plans. He translated the works of Thier and Sir John Sinclair. The institution disappeared in 1842, but Dombasle had left his mark; he succeeded in popularizing the three course rotation, and of substituting a root crop for the idle fallow. He implanted also numerous other good points of husbandry, and above all he formed pupils to propagate his ideas, the most eminent of whom was M. Raiffet, the founder of the regional school of agriculture at Grand Jouan, in the Department of the Loire-Inférieure, and which is at present flourishing.

In 1792 it was suggested that the elements of agriculture be taught once a week in the primary or national schools. Both the teachers and the populations petitioned for that advantage. But nothing came from this excellent intention. And strange, in 1833 when Guizot propounded his vast scheme of national education, he completely overlooked the paramount claims of agriculture. It was only in 1838 the idea was boldly taken in hand, when Parliament was asked to attach chairs of agriculture to the Normal or training schools for teachers. It was but logical to demand that to teach agriculture the teacher should himself be taught. This plan was sanctioned by a decree in 1839, and a few Departmental Training schools had their professor of agriculture and school farm. At best it was only an experiment.

Five days after the successful revolution of 1848, a decree was published to enforce that of 1839, relative to agricultural professorships being attached to the Normal colleges; it was also urged to teach the principles of rural economy in the national schools. The authorities were still handicapped by the political situation of the country. Louis Philippe's government had granted subsidies to three agricultural colleges created by private enterprise--Grignon, Grand Jouan and La Saulsaie; helped school farms, and nominated inspectors of agriculture. But it was M. Tourret, Minister of Agriculture, who in 1848 brought forward a vast scheme for agricultural education. It was to embrace three degrees, like the general instruction of the country--primary, secondary and superior. In other words, model farm schools, regional or departmental colleges, and a central university or agricultural institute. The base of this plan exists.

The farm schools were to bring home and on the spot practical improvements to the cultivators; they were directed by competent teachers and managed at their own risks and perils; conducted in accordance with and subject to official programmes and inspection; pupils were to remain three or four years, were admitted by local jury who granted them certificates on learning; the State's aid was limited to an annual donation of 250 fr. per pupil.

Above the farm school was the regional or departmental agricultural college, of which that at Grand Jouan, founded in 1840, was the type. These colleges were to represent a well defined and ameliorated type of culture, harmonizing with a group of departments, or a region; science was to march here hand in hand with practice; the State worked them at its own expense; conducted experiments, and the pupils boarded paid 750 fr. a year; there were a few salaries.  
(Continued on eighth page.)







## Horticultural.

## IMPROVEMENT OF FRUITS.

Thomas Meehan, late editor of the *American Gardener*, now merged into the *American Nurseryman's Association* journal, writes in the *American Nurseryman*, June 19, 1888, that I cannot attest my sympathy with the nurserymen, by my personal acquaintance with them to-day. The pen is a substitute. Mr. Watrous suggests I write a few thoughts on the improvement of fruits.

There has been much improvement in some respects, but the general improvement has been retrograde. Take the strawberry. Thousands enjoy them more abundantly than any that were a hundred years ago. But the strawberry is the cultivator. The fruit has improved. No variety is better, or more abundant than any that were a quarter of a century ago. I know of no strawberry to smile at the retrospective view of elder folks. They are told that we could go to the strawberry patch and pick the best of the old, but without regretting that we did not pick a pound of sugar with us. We now have the table sugar flavored with strawberry, and the strawberry is not so dear as it was. Is it not the same old fruit? I say most, for in some cases the strawberry has been a great advance, though even here we have much better for ourselves than we did for us in the days of which I write.

Reference to the grape brings me to the point, however, that to improve the grape is to be by hybridizing, or by selection, and if by selection, what are we to do?

We can get new races by hybridizing or by selection, but it is of little value as an improvement. Hybridizing or crossing is a conservative power, the deadly enemy of progress. It seems a natural law, that every thing that varies. No two leaves on a tree in all roses correspond. Not even two blades of grass can be found exactly the same. Philadelphians have shown us the reason for this, and it has come to be generally accepted as the present order of nature could not possibly exist had not Providence imposed the tendency to vary, when the machine of life was set going. But the movement of nature is rhythmic, the opposing forces at every step. Water does not flow over the shore without leaving marks on the sand, heated air can not rise on a warm day, but we can see its vibrations. Wind can not play over the grass without trace its tremulous agitation, and the growth of plants has the same vibratory movement. Continuous advance and retreat almost every node on the branch. All these rhythmic movements come from opposing forces, and in the evolution of opposing forces hybridism is one. A plant with contrasting fruit has a seedling with contrasting fruit. Insects, or the wind, carry the pollen of the parent, or those like the parent, to the new departure, and the next generation produces fruit neither sweet nor sour. The adventurous youngster is brought back again toward the ranks. It is next to impossible to make any good use of hybridizing or crossing in improving fruits.

In the origination of new races it is never, invaluable. There was a time when people believed hybrids were sterile. They saw that the poor mule was sterile, and jumped at the conclusion that that was law in all things. Truly some hybrids are sterile, but then there are numerous cases of fertility among individuals not hybrids. American horticulturists surely know that hybrids are not necessarily sterile. Rogers, of Salem, over a quarter of a century ago, produced a new race of grapes between two species. We all know this race is not sterile. The race having been once established, it gives us by natural variation a great advance. This is the only place we know of a certainty that the founders of new races were hybrid. Various raspberries and blackberries have been hybridized but no new race has sprung from them. But there are races from supposed hybrids, supposed to be of good reason. There can be but little doubt that the Kiefer pear and two others originated as a hybrid between two good species, as also is the type of blackberry of which the Wilson is the representative. It is believed that the Siberian crab and the common apple have given us a hybrid race, and there may be some others. We have the new race we must look to selection of seedlings for the improvements we desire. It is by no means clear that environment has anything to do with direct new forms. But the forms having once originated into existence from the original accidental germs, if one may so speak, environment has a great deal to do with the preservation of the sprouting being. If the variation be in the direction of tenderness a severe climate will kill it, if it prefer a moist atmosphere and finds itself in a dry one it becomes uneasy, or if it be one demanding higher nutrition than usual, and it finds itself where poverty reigns, it will die. We can only tell from experience whether the variation is in the line of what we want, and then from that we must select seed, and again from that as it approaches the type we have set for ourselves.

The introduction of new species for hybridization, or the importation of new varieties from abroad all have their uses as giving us new lines for starting on, but selection must be the chief weapon in our war against rough nature.

I think the want of real progress noted in the beginning of this essay, comes from too much attention to crossing by the more intelligent among us, and the chapter of accidents which has left often to ignoramus the introduction of new fruits. Once advanced extensively the best of nurserymen has to keep them. His business is to supply what the public has been taught by the advertisements to demand. A variety found in the meadow, pronounced superb at the corner grocery, and endorsed as the best in the world by the respectable justice-of-the-peace, or the truthful village clergyman, is enough to bring fame and fortune to the introducer if he will only venture his cash on the printer's ink. We can do better than this.

It seems to me the duty of nurserymen to take into their own hands, more than they have done, the improvement of fruits, intelligently keeping in view desirable points, and ultimately selecting from seedlings till they accomplish their ends. It will surely pay.

## BLACK KNOT.

Prof. Chas. Peck, State Botanist of New York, read a paper before the Farmers' Institute at Ballston, N. Y., June 19, in which he gave the following information relative to this disease:

The most natural and effective remedy is that which at once suggests itself to every mind. It is simply to cut off or prune away the excrescences. The mycelium is deep seated and protected by the surrounding tissues, so that external applications would not be likely to destroy it. But in cutting away the knots two or three things should be borne in mind. Should the branch be cut up close to the knot, it is quite likely that some of the extremities of the mycelial threads would be left in the wood, and they might produce a new excrescence. To avoid this danger, the cut should be made three or four inches below the knot. Sometimes a knot may occupy but one side of a large branch, which it may be desirable to save. In such a case shave off the knot, taking with it the surrounding sap wood, a little distance above and below, for the purpose of getting all the mycelium if possible. (Secretary Woodward finds that an application of turpentine to the wound kills any remaining mycelium, and prevents the recurrence of the knot in this place.) It might be well to cover large wounds thus made with paint, varnish or grafting wax, as a protection from exposure to the atmosphere. In a single instance I have seen the trunk of a young plum tree entirely surrounded by a black knot just below the lowest branches. Such a case is scarcely curable. The tree may as well be taken out at once and replaced by another. When the knots have been cut off, do not throw them on the ground and leave them there; they might still develop their spores to plague you in the future. Put them in the fire and burn them to ashes; then they will do no more mischief.

The knots should be removed as soon as possible after they have made their appearance. Do not give them time to perfect a crop of spores. Perhaps one exception may be made to this rule. If a tree is first seen to be affected when in full leaf, and the knots are so numerous that their removal would cause serious injury to the tree, it might be better to wait till the leaves have fallen, before resorting to this excessive pruning. They could then be removed with greater safety to the tree. But ordinarily, the few knots that appear in a first attack can be removed with safety at any time. On no account should the knots be allowed to remain on the trees during the winter. They should all be destroyed as soon as the leaves have fallen so that they can easily be detected. In this way the development of the crop of winter spores will be prevented, and so much will be accomplished in preventing the spread of the disease. Every man who owns a plum tree or a cherry tree, should make it a rule to examine his trees in the fall, and to cut away and burn every black knot found. There is need of unity of action in this matter. If one man neglects to do this, even though all his neighbors are faithful in the matter, he may thus perpetuate the disease by raising annually a crop of black knot spores with which repeatedly to infect his neighbors' trees. This is a case in which self interest and public good go hand in hand. It is better for all that each should attend to this business faithfully, systematically and thoroughly.

Let no black knots remain on the trees during the winter. With this work thoroughly done there would still remain, in some localities, a chance for infection from diseased wild trees in the vicinity. So long as black knots remain on these, care and watchfulness must not be omitted. It is scarcely to be expected that fruit-growers will go into all the uncultivated and mountainous regions of the land to find and destroy the knots on all the wild plum and cherry trees. Still less is it to be expected that all such trees will be cut down, because they might possibly nourish and propagate the disease. But it might be practicable for every owner of a farm to see that no black knots are allowed to winter on his land, either on the cultivated or wild trees. In most localities the danger of infection from wild trees has been reduced to almost a minimum by the thorough clearing up of the country.

The danger of infection is also greatly diminished by giving good cultivation and sufficient nourishment to the tree. I have observed a choke-cherry tree standing on the margin of a barnyard where it obtained an abundant supply of the nourishment such a place affords. It grows thrifty and bears large crops of fruit. It has never been affected with black knot, though the species is especially liable to attack, and though affected plum trees have grown within 300 or 350 feet of it for several years.

Those well-known and successful nurserymen, Ellwanger & Barry, say in a recent catalogue of fruit trees: "Nothing is more favorable to the growth of the black fungus or knot than neglect. We have seen trees growing in grass in some uncultivated door yards transformed into a mere mass of black knot, while trees in neighboring gardens under good cultivation, were entirely exempt. In our specimen plum orchard it does occasionally make its appearance, but we instantly remove it. Our preventives and remedies are good, clean culture and prompt amputation. We are able to fruit in the most successful manner seventy or eighty varieties of plums annually, getting not merely a few scattering fruits, but full crops weighing down the branches."

It is quite evident then, that the black knot is no insurmountable obstacle, not even a formidable one, to the raising of good crops of plums and cherries. It merely makes necessary a little care and attention. It is with these fruits as with everything else worth having. A price must be paid for them. A little extra labor, intelligently and judiciously applied, will give us the mastery of the black knot, and will be abundantly rewarded by good crops of plums and cherries.

A NOVEL idea to most fruit-growers is that of Prof. H. Muller, who says the best time to prune grape vines is when the fruit is ripening, as the superfluous young shoots draw sugar from the ripening fruit.

## Gooseberries and Currants.

The following paper was read by Mr. E. W. Allis at the July meeting of the Lenawee County Horticultural Society:

Together with the gooseberry should be classed the currant—red and white. The same insect enemies prey upon the plant and foliage. Each furnishes an acid that is wholesome and craved by the convalescent from a lingering illness. Their habits and manner of growth are similar, and they ripen at about the same time.

Smith's Seedling, very mild; Mountain Seedling is very sour. The industry, an English variety, is much praised. Most of the foreign sorts are subject to mildew and blight in this country, but the berries are fine where they can be raised.

Either gooseberries or currants may be propagated by layers by bending a limb to the ground and fastening by means of a wooden pin made from the fork of a small limb, by cutting one branch short and the other longer, and thrusting the longer end into the ground with the short hook across the layered branch, and cover lightly with soil, leaving the end of the branch projecting. Other than by seeds, this is nature's way, often using a matting of grass instead of the sharpened stick to keep it in contact with the moist ground till the roots appear.

Cuttings should be made several inches in length from the previous season's growth, and before the leaves start, set in the ground nearly to the upper one or two buds, so to point toward the sun at mid-day. Sometimes these will not grow well, on account of a drouth, but in most seasons a large number of plants may be raised this way.

The only serious insect pest in this country is the imported saw fly (*Nematodes ventricosa*), whose larva, or young, do the damage. Nothing is safer or better to destroy them than white hellebore, dusted on while the dew is on with a cheap tin pepper box, or applied in water, to which a little flour has been added to give it body and make it stick, and sprinkled on with a whisk broom or applied with a force pump or sprinkling pot. A few have used Paris green, but so deadly a poison is not to be recommended. Pyrethrum is more expensive than hellebore, but is said to work well.

The therapeutic use of currants is neatly treated by E. P. Roe, and will also apply to the gooseberry when he says: "I shall not lay stress on the old, well known use to which this fruit is put, but I do think its value is but half appreciated. People rush around in July in search of health; let me recommend the current care. If any one is languid, depressed in spirits, inclined to headaches, and generally 'out of sorts,' let him finish his breakfast daily for a month with a dish of freshly picked currants. He will soon almost doubt his own identity, and may even think that he is becoming a good man. He will be more gallant to his wife, kinder to his children, friendlier to his neighbors, and more open-handed to every good cause. Work will soon seem play, and play fun. In brief, the truth of the ancient pun will be verified, that 'the power to live a good life depends largely upon the liver.' Out upon the nonsense of taking medicine and nostrums during the current season! Let it be taught at the theological seminaries that the current is 'a means of grace.' It is a corrective, and that is what average humanity most needs."

Increasing Black Cap Raspberries. The method of propagation of the black cap raspberry is peculiar. If grown from seeds, as it may be, new varieties are originated, though, I fancy, that these are only slight variations from the original types. Since the large Ohio and the still larger Gregg have come into bearing I find a gradual increase in the size of wild berries in the corners of the fence where the seeds of these new sorts have been sown by birds and other agencies. But for the practical farmer the only propagation of the black is by plants growing from the tip ends, the present season's growth. After the crop is ripened on the old stems, and sometimes before, the new shoots will stretch themselves into a long snake-like growth naked of leaves, and with a little fancy, might represent the snake's head. If this end be allowed to touch soft earth roots catch hold, and bud shoots up and in a few months there is a vigorous young plant. Only the tip ends should be used. If other shoots on the layer are made to grow they will be less vigorous, and after a few years will be attacked by red rust. But the tips may be multiplied almost indefinitely by pushing back the ends of shoots and causing side branches to grow, each of which will grow a plant from its tip end.—Philadelphia Press.

The Result of an Experiment. Galen Wilson, in the *N. Y. Tribune*, says: "Accidents often drive one into new and useful fields of observation. My supply of cabbage plants, except 500, having been destroyed, others had to be sought. Those saved were transplanted when at the usual size, but made slow progress in growth, and ten per cent died. Ten days later a lot of very large plants was purchased because no others could be found. They were generally a foot high or more, and some had begun to head. They were grown thickly and consequently 'leggy,' and being put out on a hot, sunny day, it was no, expected that many of them would live. The roots were placed from four to six inches in the soil. The plants wilted flat the first day, but next morning were erect and continued so, and proceeded at once to make rapid growth. Out of several thousand not two per cent died, and they can now be distinguished from the smaller and earlier set plants as far as the field can be seen. The reasons for their superiority are: There was a larger and fuller growth of foliage and root to begin with; and the roots were placed so deep in the soil that moisture did not fall them as it did the smaller plants set nearer the surface. They do not show legginess now. What was considered a calamity when the home-grown plants were destroyed proved to be a blessing in disguise. None but large, leggy plants for me in the future. Cabbage worms trouble, but a teaspoonful of road dust to a plant after every rain-shower effectually checks their ravages."

A BENTON HARBOR fruit-grower grew strawberries enough on 34 square rods of ground to net him \$92. And he says it was not a good year for strawberries, either.

## FLORICULTURAL.

A CORRESPONDENT of *Vick's Magazine* says very truly that those who have but little time to devote to flower culture make a mistake in growing annuals only, thinking that they can do this easier than they can care for border plants. The saving of time and labor is all in favor of border plants. A border of hardy plants once established is good for years. If properly cared for they will improve from year to year.

A GENTLEMAN of Salem, Mass., by the aid of good culture and liberal manuring, produced a stalk of *Lilium auratum* which bore 140 blooms on a stalk seven feet high and almost two inches in diameter. This extraordinary number of blossoms was fully expanded when a photograph of the stalk was taken. The bulb was planted in good sandy loam, liberally mulched, and received waterings of liquid manure occasionally.

It requires some care to train Carnations to a good shape. The best plan when grown in pots is to drive a slender stake in the center for support, pinch out the tops of tall, sprawling stalks, and encourage new shoots from the root. A correspondent of *Vick's Magazine* plants hers in nothing but leaf-mould and sand, and drench them once a week with liquid manure. Soot is also good for them, and they love heat and sunlight.

VICK'S MAGAZINE suggests that Golden Rod and Asters, which are particularly American flowers, and quite universally distributed in all parts of the country, ought to be selected as our national flowers, being appropriate emblems of endurance, vigor, light and freedom. The trailing *Arbutus* has been suggested to fill the position, but it is common to but few portions of the country; and the pansy also, which is but a garden variety of a European plant. The national emblem ought to be a flower peculiar to our own land and one quite generally diffused.

A CORRESPONDENT of the *Indiana Farmer* who is traveling in California thus describes the famous Snow Plant of the Sierras: The Snow Plant (*Sarcodes sanguinea*) is a parasite that grows on the roots of trees, usually those of pine, and three or four inches below the surface. The whole plant is succulent, and all above the soil—leaf, stem and flower,—is of light blood red color, sometimes shading to dark purple. The portion below the soil is of a pale pink, fading to white when deep in the ground. The usual height of the plant is from 10 to 20 inches, some specimens reaching two feet. It loves the mountains, and I believe is never found at a less elevation than 4,000 feet above the sea, almost up to the snow limit. I have heard of plants being grown from seed, but it is next to impossible to grow them in ordinary garden soil, or in low elevations. There is but one species, and no known varieties. The plant grows compact, and in leaf and flower, and general form, resembles a red hyacinth.

THE *Horticultural Times* says that for the decoration of greenhouses and conservatories in summer, there are few flowers more desirable than the *Achamenes*. Their flowers are of most delicate beauty, varying from pure white to rose, lilac, scarlet, and most brilliant crimson. The stately buds or rhizomes should be set away as grown, and kept perfectly dormant in winter—secure from extreme cold, the soil moistened sufficiently to keep the little roots from drying up and wasting their strength. Just here is the source of many disappointments when roots are brought up in the spring. They have remained in dry, hard soil so long that they have not sufficient vitality left to sprout, though seeming sound. In February or March, they should be shaken out of the old soil and repotted in a light mixture of leaf-mould and sandy loam in well-drained pots, in groups or single specimens. Water moderately and keep in a warm, sunny situation until buds form, then move to a light but somewhat shady spot. The blooms last longer and are prettier than when exposed to hot sunshine or winds. They bloom at the axils of the leaves, and will continue to grow and flower from early summer to late autumn. When done flowering withhold water gradually.

Horticultural Items. SAUGATUCK shipped the first of the peach crop July 26th, 13 baskets.

A SOUTH HAVEN man recently shipped ten baskets of Madeline pears, the product of one tree.

THERE are said to be three thousand acres of blackberries ripening in the vicinity of Benton Harbor.

THE South Haven Messenger says Mr. J. N. Stearns has one of the finest fruit farms in that vicinity, so noted for excellent fruit-farming.

TALK about boys not being berry-pickers! The Benton Harbor Pulleton tells of two lads of 14 and 16 who picked 140 and 144 quarts of raspberries in five hours.

THE shipping season for peaches is fairly open in the peach belt. On the last two thousand and baskets were sent to Chicago; since then the shipments have very materially increased.

THE raspberry crop in the vicinity of Benton Harbor is immense. The Alden company put up from six thousand to seven thousand cans daily. The muskmelon crop is also excellent.

WHITE huckleberries are rare, there are but few places where they grow in any quantity. A Pennsylvania farmer owns the largest known patch of them, and sells the crop annually at a considerable advance over the price paid for the common sort. The berries are large and very sweet.

A NEW JERSEY man who owned a tract of barren, sandy soil presumably worth nothing, agriculturally speaking, sold part of it to a thrifty Indian, who undertook its reclamation and this year sold \$2,000 worth of blackberries from it. There's nothing improbable about this except the Indian part.

UNLESS the clusters of flowers and green fruit which form on the tomato vine late in the season are picked off, the vines will be laden with unripe fruit when the frost comes. Cut away all the immature fruit the vines cannot ripen, and you will have larger, finer, and better quality fruit in consequence.

J. H. HARR, the peach-grower of South Glastonbury, Conn., who raises small fruits extensively, says: "We have indeed about the successful cultivator who produces 6,000 to 8,000 quarts of berries to the acre, and sells them for 15 cents a quart, while nothing is said of 'the ninety and nine men,' who raise 2,000 quarts and sell them for five cents. But at present I advise those who are established in the business to hold on; cultivate fewer acres, give better care to what they have, and let new beginners not begin."

THE Massachusetts Roughman says: "If large-sized and well matured pears are expected it is absolutely necessary that the fruit be thinned on all trees that have on their pears in clusters; only one pear should come from one blossom bud, and the fruit should be so thinned as to leave the pears to hang singly, and several inches apart when fully grown. To thin pears as they ought to be requires practice and courage. Very few fruit-growers at first have courage to pick off these pears where they leave but one, but on many trees where the fruit sets well this should be done, if first quality fruit is to be secured."

## Apianian.

BEEKEEPERS in the Saginaw valley report a light honey crop. The season of fruit bloom was short and rainy.

ABNER BROWN, possibly the most extensive apiarist in Ingham County, states the honey yield this year will be an absolute failure. His 41 colonies will not produce more than enough to feed them during the winter.—Lansing Republican.

OUT of a total of 300,000 bee-keepers in the United States, less than 300 have become members of the Bee-Keepers' Union. Unless more funds are forthcoming, the Clark case at Arkadelphia, which has already cost the Union \$125, and is to come up for a new trial, will have to go by default.

THE manager of the apary of D. A. Jones at Benton, Ont., has been unable to rear queens successfully, losing at least 75 per cent on their first flight. A martin was seen to catch a bee, and as there were a number flying about, one was shot and found to contain a number of bees. The mystery as to what became of the bees was solved at once.

MRS. HARRISON, in the *Pacific Farmer*, says: "There has been a shower of honey in this locality from the basswood; something unusual, but like a thunder-shower, heavy and soon over. Those colonies that were in good condition—had their dishes right side up to catch it—are no longer poor, but rich in choice stores. The change from poverty to riches was so sudden that the bees had not wax scales secured with which to build comb, but filled every empty cell. In order to have a share of this sweetness, as it were to take toll, I extracted combs where there was no brood before it was sealed. It was of course unripe, not sufficiently evaporated, and I put it out in the sun to boil, with the thermometer playing around the hundred. What I have in vessels of tin or glass, with cheese cloth tied up to keep out insects and allow the moisture to pass off. When it is sufficiently ripened, it can be stored away, and will keep for all time free from souring."

In reply to a correspondent who complains that his bees betake themselves to the woods in spite of the inducements offered them in the way of commodious hives, etc., the *Canadian Bee Journal* says: "On very hot days we have sometimes felt certain the bees would go away if we had not shaded them. It is not a bad plan, if it is very hot, to pour a couple of pails of water on the ground around the hive, and a little on the lid, making it cool all around the hive. It seems to please the bees and they will remain quiet and busy capping their combs and drawing out foundation much quicker than they otherwise would. When swarms seem not inclined to stop, we have placed brush over the top and about the hives, and by sprinkling well with the cold water, after having saturated the ground around them we have found they had no desire to go away."

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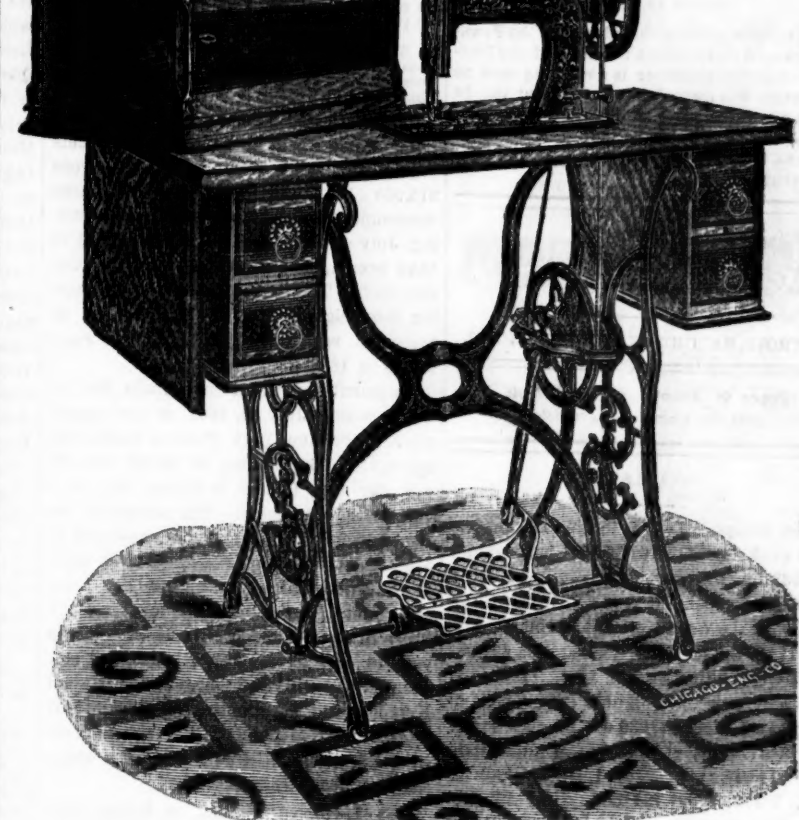
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FARMER from — Postoffice to — Postoffice.  
Sign your name in full.

**MICHIGAN FARMER**  
DETROIT, SATURDAY, AUGUST 11, 1888.

This Paper is Entered at the Detroit Post-  
office as second class matter.

**WHEAT.**

The receipts of wheat in this market the  
past week amounted to 389,841 bu., against  
211,383 bu. the previous week, and 254,088  
bu. for corresponding week in 1887. Ship-  
ments for the week were 234,949 bu., against  
78,841 bu. the previous week and 59,097 bu.  
the corresponding week in 1887. The stocks  
of wheat now held in this city amount to  
350,852 bu., against 236,007 bu. last week,  
and 608,770 bu. at the corresponding date  
in 1887. The visible supply of this grain on  
Aug. 1 was 22,997,794 bu. against 22,190,-  
867 the previous week, and 33,691,097  
for the corresponding week in 1887. This  
shows an increase from the amount reported  
the previous week of 86,927 bushels. As  
compared with a year ago the visible sup-  
ply shows a decrease of 10,693,323 bu.

The wheat markets yesterday were irreg-  
ular and unsatisfactory. The government  
crop report was expected in the morning,  
but was held back until four o'clock. Had  
it been received it would have helped the  
"bull" side, as spring wheat was reported  
to have fallen off eight points—from 95 to  
87 of an average crop. The weather there  
is also reported to be very cold and un-  
seasonable at a time when the kernel is "in  
the milk." We look for a firmer tone in  
the market to-morrow, especially as cables  
are firmer, and reports from foreign  
markets all show a hardening tendency.  
The State crop report for August will be  
found in another column.

The following table exhibits the daily closing  
prices of spot wheat in this market from  
July 10th to August 10th, inclusive:

	No. 1	No. 2	No. 3
July 10	91	88	85
11	91	88	85
12	91	88	85
13	91	88	85
14	91	88	85
15	91	88	85
16	91	88	85
17	91	88	85
18	91	88	85
19	91	88	85
20	91	88	85
21	91	88	85
22	91	88	85
23	91	88	85
24	91	88	85
25	91	88	85
26	91	88	85
27	91	88	85
28	91	88	85
29	91	88	85
30	91	88	85
Aug. 1	91	88	85
2	91	88	85
3	91	88	85
4	91	88	85
5	91	88	85
6	91	88	85
7	91	88	85
8	91	88	85
9	91	88	85
10	91	88	85

For No. 2 red the closing prices on the  
various dates each day of the past week  
were as follows:

	Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov.
Saturday	88 87 86 85
Sunday	88 87 86 85
Monday	88 87 86 85
Tuesday	88 87 86 85
Wednesday	88 87 86 85
Thursday	88 87 86 85
Friday	88 87 86 85

For No. 1 white the closing prices of the  
various dates each day of the past week  
were as follows:

	Aug. Sept. Oct. Nov.
Saturday	88 87 86 85
Sunday	88 87 86 85
Monday	88 87 86 85
Tuesday	88 87 86 85
Wednesday	88 87 86 85
Thursday	88 87 86 85
Friday	88 87 86 85

In England the weather has been abnor-  
mally cold and wet, and while commercial  
reports say that wheat looks well, it has had  
all the moisture it requires (and more), and  
fine, forcing weather from now to harvest  
is essentially necessary to produce anything  
like an average yield. Last year wheat was  
being cut in the earlier districts at this time,  
but no such record can be made this year.  
The present outlook is for a late and under-  
average crop, and this result can be pre-  
vented only by an abnormally hot and forc-  
ing August, which is not likely to occur.  
There can be little doubt that the United  
Kingdom's requirements of foreign wheat  
for the coming crop year will be materially  
larger than for the year now drawing to a  
close.

The last advices from South Russia are  
decidedly less favorable than the previous  
reports, and it is probable that the Russian  
crop will be materially smaller than was  
expected. An Odessa letter of July 14 says that rain had  
continued almost uninterruptedly during the  
week, accompanied at times by hail, and re-  
ports from the interior state that the crops  
are seriously compromised by this excessive  
and untimely rainfall, harvest work being  
interrupted and standing wheat losing color,  
besides which it is feared that what has been  
cut will sprout. The most serious reports  
come from Podolia and Bessarabia, where  
the crop was previously reported to be fully  
assured. As the quality and condition of  
the new wheat for autumn shipment depend  
upon the weather at this time, the present  
report is of great importance.

The exports of wheat from India from  
April 1 to July 28, reported by special cable,

show a decrease of nearly one-seventh as  
compared with last year, and must be taken  
as indicating that the surplus for export this  
season will not equal the moderate quantity  
shipped last year.

It is reported that the French Government  
is considering the necessity of suspending  
the duty on imports of breadstuffs because  
of the large increase in requirements from  
abroad during the coming cereal year. It is  
estimated by some enthusiastic "bulls" that  
the United Kingdom will have to import  
160,000,000 bushels of wheat the coming  
year, either as wheat or in flour, which is  
one-ninth more than her average imports.  
If the imports reach 150,000,000 bushels  
wheat will sell for more money than it is  
worth now.

Flour is said to have advanced 37½¢ per  
50 lbs. in Paris the past week.

The following table shows the quantity  
of wheat "in sight" at the dates named, in  
the United States, Canada, and on passage  
to Great Britain and the Continent of Eu-  
rope:

	Bushels.
Visible supply	31,664,810
On passage for United Kingdom	15,750,000
On passage for Continent of Europe	2,645,000
Total	49,059,810
Total previous week	48,042,308
Total two weeks ago	44,543,727
Total July 15, 1888	58,788,081

The estimated receipts of foreign and  
home-grown wheat in the English markets  
during the week ending July 28 were  
315,960 bu., less than the estimated  
consumption; and for the eight weeks end-  
ing July 14 the receipts are estimated to  
have been 1,053,256 bu., less than the con-  
sumption. The receipts show an increase  
for those eight weeks of 3,863,184 bu., as  
compared with the corresponding eight  
weeks in 1887.

Shipments of wheat from India for the  
week ending July 28, 1888, as per special  
cable to the New York Produce Exchange,  
aggregated 660,000 bu., of which 360,000  
was for the United Kingdom and 300,-  
000 to the Continent. The shipments for  
the previous week, as cabled, amounted to  
500,000 bushels, of which 380,000 went  
to the United Kingdom and 120,000 to the  
Continent. The shipments from that coun-  
try from April 1, the beginning of the crop  
year, to July 28, aggregated 15,860,000 bu.,  
about equally divided between the United  
Kingdom and the Continent. The wheat  
on passage from India July 17 was estimated  
at 4,560,000 bu. One year ago the quan-  
tity was 7,664,000 bu.

The Liverpool market on Friday was  
quoted dull with poor demand. Quotations  
for American wheat are as follows: No. 2  
winter, 6s. 6½d. @ 6s. 7½d. per cental; No. 2  
spring, 6s. 6½d. @ 6s. 7½d. per cental; No. 1  
6s. 7½d. @ 6s. 8½d.

**CORN AND OATS.**

**CORN.**

The receipts of corn in this market the  
past week were 7,907 bu., against 13,352 bu.  
the previous week, and 6,622 bu. for the  
corresponding week in 1887. Shipments for  
the week were 11,807 bu., against 5,388 bu.  
the previous week, and 3,496 bu. for the  
corresponding week in 1887. The visible  
supply of corn in the country on Aug. 4  
amounted to 9,009,049 bu., against 8,374,-  
050 bu. the previous week, and 7,309,148 bu.  
at the same date in 1887. The visible sup-  
ply shows an increase during the week indicated  
of 635,559 bu. The stocks now held in this  
city amount to 22,517 bu., against 23,012 bu.  
last week, and 6,573 bu. at the corre-  
sponding date in 1887. As compared with  
a year ago the visible supply shows an in-  
crease of 1,699,901 bu. Corn closes  
steadily but rather weak, with values slightly  
higher in this market than a week ago. No.  
2 spot is quoted at 47¢ per bu., and for De-  
cember delivery quotations were 39¢. The  
government crop report for August puts the  
growing crop at 95, an advance in condi-  
tion of 2½ points during the month, and  
giving promise of the largest crop ever  
grown in the country. This is one thing,  
however, which looks unfavorable, and that  
is the very cool weather now being expe-  
rienced. This coolness is also being felt all  
through the northwest, where the nights  
have been unusually cold. The question is,  
are we to have frosts earlier than usual,  
and at a time when much of the corn crop  
would be seriously damaged? We hope not,  
but it must be acknowledged the signs are  
pointing that way. At Chicago the week  
closed with corn weak and irregular, and  
prices lower than a week ago. The reports  
from the growing crop west are used by the  
"bear" side to depress prices. Latest  
quotations there yesterday were as follows:  
No. 2 spot, 45¢ @ 45½¢; August delivery,  
45½¢; September, 45¢; October, 44½¢;  
May, 39½¢. These prices are all lower  
than a week ago.

The Liverpool market on Friday was  
quiet but values steady. The following  
are the latest cable quotations from Liver-  
pool: Spot mixed, 4s. 7d. per cental.  
Futures: August delivery, dull at 4s. 7d.;  
September, 4s. 7½d. per cental.

**OATS.**

The receipts at this point for the week  
were 38,073 bu., against 28,163 bu. the previous  
week, and 43,173 bu. for the corresponding  
week last year. The shipments for the week  
were 981 bu., against nothing the previ-  
ous week, and 47,468 bu. for same week in  
1887. The visible supply of this grain on  
Aug. 4 was 2,310,557 bu., against 2,689,850  
bu. the previous week, and 2,868,400 at the  
corresponding date in 1887. The visible  
supply shows a decrease of 479,293 bu.  
for the week indicated. Stocks held in  
store here amount to 22,340 bu., against  
11,338 bu. the previous week, and 45,993  
bu. at the corresponding date in 1887. Oats  
are slow but steady with the tone rather  
firm. Values are about the same as a week  
higher, with mixed a little lower and white  
rather higher. Some speculative trading is  
going on, and prices on futures are higher.  
Quotations range as follows: No. 2 white,  
31½¢; No. 2 mixed, 26½¢; light mixed,  
26½¢. In futures No. 2 white for August  
delivery sold at 26½¢, and No. 2 mixed for  
same month at 26½¢. A car of old No. 2  
mixed sold yesterday at 34¢. At Chicago  
oats were steady and quite active. Values  
on spot are about the same as a week ago,  
but futures are higher. Closing prices  
yesterday were as follows: No. 2 mixed,  
spot, 25½¢; August delivery, 25½¢; Sep-  
tember, 24½¢; October, 24½¢, and May at  
27½¢ per bu.

The New York market yesterday was  
firm but rather quiet. White are scarce

and firm, while mixed are rather dull  
at a slight decline from last week's  
prices. Quotations in that market are  
as follows: No. 2 white, 43½¢ @ 43¢; No.  
3 white, 40¢ @ 41¢; No. 3 mixed, 36½¢ @  
37½¢. In futures No. 2 mixed for August  
delivery sold at 32½¢, September at 29½¢ @  
29½¢, and October at 30¢ @ 30½¢. West-  
ern sold at 42¢ @ 44¢ for white, and 38¢ @ 39¢  
for mixed.

**DAIRY PRODUCTS.**

**BUTTER.**

The market is quiet, but with rather  
light receipts there appears to be some im-  
provement. Fancy dairy sells at 17c, when  
it is offered, but there is little coming in  
which will grade up to requirements, and  
16c catches most of it. For fair to good  
lots the figures are 14¢ @ 15c, and ordinary  
stock is low at 11¢ @ 12c. Creamery is quiet,  
but the scarcity of fancy dairy has helped it  
some, and there is a fair inquiry at 19¢ @ 21c,  
the latter hard to get. At Chicago the  
market is quiet but steady. The receipts  
are rather light, especially of fresh sweet  
table butter, and such finds quick sale.  
Low grade and medium stock is not so firm.  
Quotations in that market yesterday were  
as follows: Fancy Elgin creameries, 18¢ @  
18½¢ per lb.; fine Iowa, Wisconsin, and  
Minnesota do, 16¢ @ 17½¢; fair to good do,  
14¢ @ 15c; fancy dairies, 15¢ @ 15½¢; com-  
mon to fair do, 12¢ @ 14c; packing stock  
10¢ @ 11c. The New York market  
continues dull, and while fancy grades  
have held their own during the week, there  
is evidence that everything else is gradually  
sagging downward. Advances from abroad  
regarding stock that has arrived out are  
very disappointing, and shippers have no  
encouragement to operate, so little has been  
done this week on that account. Fancy  
Western creamery is not quotable above  
18c, and freely offered at that, though  
small lots of special separator goods work  
out to a regular trade shade higher. Imi-  
tation creamery and Western dairy very  
plenty, dull and weak. A moderate move  
is reported in good, useful factory when ob-  
tainable at about 12¢ @ 13c, but otherwise  
scarcely any demand.

Quotations in that market yesterday were  
as follows:

	Eastern Stock.
Creamery, state, pails, fancy	30 @ 30½
Creamery, state, tubs, fancy	19 @ 20
Creamery, prime	16 @ 17
Creamery, good	15 @ 16
Creamery, fair	14 @ 15
State dairy, tubs, fancy	13 @ 14
State dairy, tubs, good	12 @ 13
State dairy, tubs, fair	11 @ 12
State dairy, tubs, prime	17 @ 17½
State dairy, tubs, fair to good	15 @ 16

	Western Stock.
Western creamery, fancy	21 @ 22
Western imitation creamery, shole	13½ @ 14
Western do, good to prime	14 @ 15
Western dairy, fine	14½ @ 15
Western dairy, good	13 @ 14
Western dairy, ordinary	12 @ 13
Western factory, June, fresh, extra	14 @ 15
Western factory, June, fresh, first	13 @ 14
Western factory, June, fresh, first	12 @ 13
Western factory, June, fresh, first	11 @ 12
Western factory, June, fresh, first	10 @ 11
Western factory, June, fresh, first	9 @ 10
Western factory, June, fresh, first	8 @ 9
Western factory, June, fresh, first	7 @ 8
Western factory, June, fresh, first	6 @ 7
Western factory, June, fresh, first	5 @ 6
Western factory, June, fresh, first	4 @ 5
Western factory, June, fresh, first	3 @ 4
Western factory, June, fresh, first	2 @ 3
Western factory, June, fresh, first	1 @ 2

**CHEESE.**

Prices have been advanced a fraction in  
this market since our last report, and the  
advance was general both east and west.  
Since the advance the New York market  
appears to have lost all its strength, and  
yesterday a part of the advance was lost,  
owing to a dull and unsatisfactory market  
and a poor outlook ahead. In this market  
quotations are 9½¢ @ 10¢ per lb. for choice  
full cream State, and 10¢ @ 10½¢ for New  
York. From first hands prices are ½¢ less.  
The Chicago market has also advanced and  
seems firm and fairly active. Exporters  
were looking for cheddars, with some call  
for Young Americas, hence with a fair home  
demand full creams are firm. Low grades  
and skins are in light supply and dull.  
Quotations in that market are as follows:  
Cheddars, 5½¢ @ 9¢ per lb.; do flats, 8¢ @  
9¢; do Young Americas, 9¢ @ 9½¢; poor to  
choice skins, 2¢ @ 3¢. At New York the  
market yesterday presented a dull and un-  
satisfactory appearance. Receipts had been  
large for some days, while exporters are  
doing scarcely anything, most of them re-  
fusing to look at the stock at all on the basis  
of the rates asked, and business is confined  
to a small order trade. So far export  
clearances have been very light this week,  
while the receipts being heavy a steady ac-  
cumulation of stock is the result, with the  
trade in a bad position. Holders of fine to  
fancy cheeses have so far generally refused  
to make any material concession, but prices  
are nominally easier and there is a general  
impression that present figures cannot be  
maintained. Quotations in that market  
yesterday were as follows:

impression that present figures cannot be maintained. Quotations in that market yesterday were as follows:

State factory, full cream, colored.....	9½ @ 9¾
State factory, full cream, white.....	9½ @ 9¾
State factory, good.....	8½ @ 9
State factory, medium grades cream.....	8½ @ 9
State factory, ordinary.....	7½ @ 8
State factory, light skims.....	6½ @ 7
State factory, medium.....	5 @ 6
State factory, full cream, white.....	4½ @ 5
Ohio flats, best.....	7½ @ 8
Ohio flats, ordinary.....	7 @ 7½

The receipts of cheese in New York for  
the week ending July 31 were 58,540  
boxes, against 79,476 the previous week,  
and 77,366 boxes the corresponding week  
in 1887. The exports from all Atlantic  
ports for the same week were 6,017,996 lbs.,  
against 11,026,947 lbs. the previous week,  
and 7,795,360 lbs. the corresponding week  
in 1887.

The Liverpool market on Friday was  
quoted dull for American white and colored  
at 46s. 0d. per cwt., the same figures quoted  
last week.

MESSRS. OLDS & BACON, York, Mich.,  
have purchased the two Holstein-Friesian  
heifers Mima E 8064 H. F. H. B., and  
Cherry Vale Prince 9094 H. F. H. B., bred  
by Thos. B. Wales, Iowa City, Iowa, the  
former heifer being sired by Mercedes  
Prince 2150, and the latter by Tritonia's  
Mercedes Prince 3543, these two sires hav-  
ing been sold at Mr. Wales' dispersion sale  
for \$1,150 and \$2,050, respectively. They also  
report the sale of the young bull Chautau-  
qua Girl's Prince 2d 6602 H. F. H. B., to  
A. Bedford, Crosswell, Mich.; and to Frank  
Butler, Milan, Mich., the yearling bull  
Chautauqua Girl's Grandson, sired by Chautau-  
qua Girl's Prince No. 4343, dam Flavia  
4910.

"All our hopes are o'er," sigh the Char-  
lotte people who furnished the funds to bore  
the well. The well was sunk 2,300 feet, and  
was plugged up, expenditure over. At least  
they have the satisfaction of knowing the  
well is dry.

**WOOL.**

The eastern markets are all showing con-  
siderable activity, and it is probable the ag-  
gregate of sales for the past week is as large  
as any for the past three months. Receipts  
from the interior are larger also, showing  
that local dealers are putting their purchases  
into market. Considerable activity is re-  
ported among buyers in Ohio, where a large  
part of the clip is yet in first hands. Hold-  
ers, however, are very slow to part with  
wool at present prices, and most of them are  
asking from 1¼ to 3¢ per lb. above  
what buyers are willing to pay. Thus buy-  
ers are offering an average of 25¢ for fine  
and 27¢ @ 28¢ per lb. for medium, while  
growers demand 27¢ for fine and 27½¢ @ 28c  
for medium. It is evident the strong tone  
in the clip districts is helping the eastern  
markets, dealers not caring to sell at prices  
which would not only net them a loss in  
many instances but at which they could not  
replace stocks.

At Boston the market is active and steady,  
with prices showing little or no change.  
Large purchases hang on a difference of ½¢  
in many instances, neither the manufacturer  
nor dealer being willing to make conces-  
sions. To make concessions from present  
prices would argue that holders were cer-  
tain of the Mills bill passing, and that free  
foreign wool was one of the certainties of  
the future. We cannot believe, however,  
that such will be the case, and think hold-  
ers are justified in showing firmness. The  
Boston Advertiser, of last week, says:

"There has been more business doing in  
wool during the past week, but as near as  
can be learned the bulk of the sales has  
been at low prices. The fact that the tariff  
question seems to be shelved for the present  
so far as any immediate settlement is con-  
cerned, gives manufacturers something on  
which to base their calculations, and they  
are now apparently willing to buy a fair  
amount of wool at a price. A number of  
large buyers have been in the market and  
bids on large lots, and in some cases their  
bids were accepted, a glance at the list of  
sales will show. The bulk of the sales has  
averaged large. The price here is still low  
as compared with the cost in the country,  
but no one seems to have any confidence  
that values will rule much stronger in the  
near future, and they are generally letting  
the wool go quite freely as they have a chance.

"With the outlook as it is, manufacturers  
have fixed their views at about 25¢ for  
choice X Michigan fleece, with XX Ohio  
at 26¢, Ohio delaine at 30¢, No. 1 Ohio  
clothing at 32¢, No. 1 Ohio combing at 34¢,  
and at these figures will buy largely. At  
any advance on these prices they will not  
buy, except it be some small lot of extra  
quality, and dealers have to come down to  
these figures in order to sell. The high  
cost in the country does not make these fig-  
ures look very favorable to dealers, and  
some houses will not sell, but prefer to take  
their chances and hold on a while longer.  
The receipts are averaging up well, for al-  
though not coming in so early as last year,  
they are holding on longer. The receipts  
of domestic wool since the first of the year  
foot up 211,266 bales, while for the same  
time in 1887, they were about 278,000 bales,  
or a falling off of nearly 67,000 bales for  
the year. The receipts of foreign wool thus far  
are still about 9,000 bales ahead of  
the same time in 1887."

At New York receipts of the new clip are  
also larger and on the whole trade is more  
active. But the business trade of that mar-  
ket, so far as domestic wools are concerned,  
must be away below that of former years,  
since the new clip began to arrive. There  
are said to be plenty of people looking after  
wool, but they all expect concessions in  
price even from the present low range. The  
market can be quoted firm, as holders are not  
disposed to sell except at the prices they are  
getting. This is true of all desirable grades  
of fine wool; medium wools, however, are  
not so strong. The Wool Reporter accounts  
for this in the following way:

"Owing to the great demand for these  
wools last season for chervil purposes the  
market was so tight that the demand for  
any other grade the greater part of the  
season, but this year there is scarcely a  
manufacturer who has sent out as full a line  
of chervil samples as he did last season,  
and the demand for the wool is lessened,  
which in turn points to much smaller con-  
sumption of the medium fleeces. It is true  
that the production of these wools is only  
less, and that it is becoming less every  
year, but still the falling off in the de-  
mand this season is likely to be much  
greater proportionally than the decrease in  
the amount of wools grown. The call seems  
to be for the fine and less heavy grades,  
and the ¼ and ½ bloods, and X grades  
than for the ¾ and ¾ bloods."

The U. S. Economist says of the New  
York market:

"Meanwhile, although the markets are  
quiet, there is evidently more of a disposi-  
tion to purchase any nice wools adapted to  
the wants of these in quest of stock, at  
prices which will sell the wool at a profit,  
all things else considered. The current  
prices for good Ohio X fleeces are 27½¢ @ 28c,  
for XX do 29c, for XXX do 33c, and for  
fine delaine 31c."

A telegraphic report of the Boston market  
received this morning, says:

The sales for the week comprise 4,047,300  
lb. of domestic fleeces and pulled, and 867,-  
000 lb. of foreign, making the week's trans-  
actions foot up 4,914,300 lbs. against 4,104,-  
700 lbs. the previous week and 4,680,800 lbs.  
for the corresponding week last year. The  
principal feature has been the large sales of  
territory wool aggregating 1,333,000 lbs. A  
great deal of Montana wool has been sold on  
a basis of 50¢ @ 52c for fine, and in addition  
to the sales reported 500,000 lbs. have been  
sold to arrive. Other territory wools have  
and are being sold on a basis of 40¢ @ 45c  
for fine down to 45c for medium. A fair  
movement is noted in Ohio XX, with  
20c as the average price. Michigan X has  
sold readily. The total sales being 420,000  
pounds, the price is pretty firmly estab-  
lished at 26c, and sales below this figure  
probably represent contract or terms that  
would bring the scored sales to 26¢ @ 27c.  
A good deal of wool is held at 27c, and  
some sales of choice wool have been made  
at that figure, but enough wool is offered at  
26c to satisfy the requirements of buyers.  
Unwashed and unmerchantable wool is  
well taken up as fast as opened at quotations,  
and contracts have been made for large  
amounts in advance. No. 1 and 2  
wools are also taken up freely on a basis of  
53¢ @ 54c for No. 1 coming. A fair amount  
of delaine has been taken at about 38c for  
Michigan and 31¢ @ 32c for Ohio, Indiana,  
and Missouri wools are quiet on a basis of  
43¢ @ 43½¢. Texas wool has been in fair  
demand at the prices previously ruling, 50¢ @  
52c for long-stapled fine wool, and 46¢ @ 48c  
for light medium and heavy wools. The  
movement moderately. The best Humboldt  
or Mendocino would probably bring 52c, but  
ordinary wool of good staple will not com-  
mand over 50c, with short free wool at 45¢  
@ 47c. Defective  
Pulled wools have moved freely  
the principal movement being in fine su-  
pers. Fine extras are also in request. There  
is yet some accumulation of last winter's  
pulling of fine super and medium extra.  
Lambs are in considerable stock, owing  
to the high price of skins, they have been  
held above buyers' views, but lately pullers  
seem more disposed to meet the market,  
and are plugging up, and offering. At least  
they have the satisfaction of knowing the  
well is dry.

60c, with choice extras at 63c. Australian  
wool has been in good request. Long  
stapled wool is wanted, as short wool is  
relatively above the price of competing  
domestic fleeces. The demand is about  
equally distributed between fine and fine  
cross brands, but coarse wool is dull.  
Choice fine combing commands 75¢ @ 76c on  
a clean basis. Stocks of Australian are  
light, there being but about 40,000 bales on  
the market. A little better feeling is noted  
in carpet wool and manufacturers are more  
inclined to take hold of them. Donskoi  
wools are quiet, but some business is being  
done in Syrian wools and the better grades  
of East India are in request.

The following is a record of prices made  
up from actual sales in the eastern markets:  
Ohio XX and above, 29½¢ @ 30c; Ohio XX,  
28¢ @ 29c; Ohio X, 27¢ @ 28c; Ohio No. 1, 32¢  
@ 33c; Michigan X, 24¢ @ 25c; Michigan No. 1,  
30¢ @ 32c; Ohio delaine, 30¢ @ 32c; Michi-  
gan delaine, 28¢ @ 29c; Ohio unwashed and  
unmerchantable, 18¢ @ 20c; Michigan do, 17¢  
@ 18c; No. 1 Ohio combing, washed,  
34¢ @ 35c; do Michigan, 32¢ @ 33c; Kentucky  
and Indiana ¾-blood combing, 26¢ @ 27c; do  
¾-blood combing, 24¢ @ 25c; Missouri and  
Illinois ¾-blood combing, 24¢ @ 25c; do ¾-  
blood combing, 23¢ @ 24c; Texas fine, 17c;  
do medium, 17c; do 6 to 8 months, 13c @ 15







## Poetry.

AUGUST.

Now Nature sits with folded hands,  
As resting from the busy year,  
While o'er the wide and teeming lands  
She contemplates the goodly cheer  
She gives; all enlivening powers  
Move noiselessly, their jocund moods  
And songs forego; in deep woods  
And fields a dumb reus silence broods  
Unbroken, save by beetle's drone  
And o'er the trees' dull monotone,  
Or leaves' low rustle as they make  
A pathway for the gliding snake.  
The patient cows seek shadows cool,  
That stretch themselves like giants prone  
Along the edges of the pool—  
And midst the waters stand knee-deep,  
In dreamy, semi-conscious sleep,  
Birds sing no more, but on the hill  
The tender plant of whip-poor-will,  
Who, telling off her woeful tale,  
Lingers full late after her time,  
While at slow intervals the chime  
Of sheep bells in the distant vale  
Falls on the ear like musical rhyme,  
Lulling the senses, till in idle dreams  
We half forget the real in the thought of that  
which seems.

—The American Magazine.

## UNCONVINCED.

"Somewhere, somewhere, the sun is shining;  
Twitters a poet in tuneful rhyme;  
Why do you sit there in grief repining?  
Quiesce he then, in repose sublime.  
"Though life to you," he adds, "may seem  
dreary,  
Living and loving are not in vain;  
Torments and tempests may make you weary,  
But somewhere, somewhere there is no rain."  
So sings the poet with bland assurance  
Characteristics of all a race;  
Trying us almost beyond endurance,  
Keeping us praying for speedy grace.  
His rhyme, his wit, his perfect rhyme,  
Nor make life's burdens less dull and drear;  
Somewhere, may be, the sun is shining,  
But what are the odds, it is rainy here!

—Journal of Education.

## Miscellaneous.

## AUNT HOPE'S HIRAM.

"The Lane" ran from one side of the village toward the river, and from it ran the road across meadow and ford, then up and down, in and out, past the hill farms beyond.

This pebbly road was not unlike the bed of some mountain stream whose former power is gone, for it also no longer knew the full tide of life that had flowed over it in days before the railroad came.

The railroad had at first cut and burned till many a mountain stream was dry, and then had puffed and steamed till many a stage-road was grass-grown; it had, moreover, led full many a son of the New England hills to the far west.

In the old days the restless boy would take his perhaps forbidden way toward Boston, where he would ship before the mast; now he had but to seek the dreary brown station on the sandy hill, where he could step aboard the westward-bound train and rattle away toward the land of his vague day dreams.

But last in the scattered line of weather-stained houses that fronted on the Lane stood one from whose doorway a boy had gone sullenly forth in those earlier days, when anger or ambition led eastward. And now, although the thirtieth spring since his departure was coaxing the lilacs into bloom about a some moss-grown doorway, his mother still watched and waited for his return.

Thirty years is long to wait, and Aunt Hope, as all the village called her, was bent and gray, and leaned upon a cane when she went to fetch wood from her meagre pile. Yet she never mourned her boy as dead; even the purple lilacs hung the decaying old house but in half-mourning.

At the east window Aunt Hope sat, day in and day out, braiding palm-leaf hats. Ever and anon she would glance up the Lane with those faded blue eyes, that seemed strained from continual watching.

Of late, too, she had been often seen, with her apron thrown hastily over her head, watching at the gateway, and sometimes at dusk a young man going down the Lane—perchance to meet a young face—would be startled to see an old eye peering at him, and to hear an eager but timid voice question, "Is that you, Hiram?" Then with sudden confusion and apology the old woman would turn and vanish.

In spring sometimes the farmers, some-times their wives, came to order hats of Aunt Hope.

On one evening of this thirtieth spring, when the moonlight night air was heavy with the lilac odor, when the unfolding of leaves and grass blades was fairly audible, when at intervals a wakeful bird chirped in the overhanging elm branches, two women came out from Aunt Hope's by the kitchen door. As they passed through the lamp-light that streamed through the small-paneled uncertain east window you would have seen them to be mother and daughter. One was fair-faced and slight, the other had been so. They both wore shawls thrown over their shoulders, and the mother carried an empty basket.

"Lindy," said the mother, in a tone of conviction, "she does look a little more peaked this spring. And she's so fretted for fear she'll have to take something from you folks as ain't kith nor kin. There's that nephew o' hers livin' in clover down to Boston, an' he won't do as much as lift his little finger for her. It does rile your pa. The little she'd want ain't enough to make no great to-do about, anyway."

The daughter was peering down the silvery vistas of the Lane, but was roused by her mother's righteous indignation to answer in half-remonstrance:

"But you know, ma, when pa wrote him he was sick. Perhaps—"

"Humph! said he couldn't be disturbed 'cause he was sufferin' from heart trouble! Overstated of the heart, I guess!" ejaculated the mother. "Why, Lindy, when we wrote him ten years ago, after he'd had a spell o' sickness, he would ha' put her in the asylum of everybody hadn't riz right up against it. Why, she ain't no more crazy than I be. She's just got into the way o' watchin' an' waitin' for her Hiram to come."

till she can't get out of it. We are all 'critters o' habit,' as your pa's always sayin'." Lindy's tone of reply showed her mild nature, and her words the "schoolin'" her father and mother had been proud to give her.

"But she did talk more about him to-night than I ever heard her before, and kept going to the window. Her mind can't be quite right, ma."

"She is straight about everything else, fur's I see. But she does look dreadful peaked this spring—real sort o'—well— If she only wouldn't be in such a stew to work, an' would go to bed like folks! You can't make me believe that any human critter can rest easy in a rockin'-chair all night. It ain't common-sense that they can. But there ain't no use talkin', for it only gits her agin' on Hiram. She can't never git over it that she sided with his pa. Land, she couldn't do no other way! 'Bijah May was terrible bumptious. When I said something one time about her settin' up, says she to me, 'Mis' Gyles, I must be up if Hiram should come suddin'.' Hiram's bed is made up in there, and mine's in the next room. When he comes I shall go ter bed, an' not before," says she, an' she opened the door an' there was Hiram's bed all made up nice as a pin; but I guess I told you about it."

"Yes, I remember," Linda said, absently, for as they walked along she turned her head from time to time and glanced anxiously down the Lane. "Poor Aunt Hope!" she added, "I wish she would let somebody make her comfortable. But isn't it past eight o'clock, ma?" The question was asked in the tone of one who fears missing an appointment.

"Oh, yes, I rather guess it's gettin' on toward nine, by the look o' the moon. Maybe you're expectin' a Hiram too?" Mrs. Gyles added, in jocose half-inquiry.

"O, don't, ma!" exclaimed Linda, as though the comparison suggested something painful.

"Mercy sakes alive, Lindy, don't be so techy! I didn't mean nothing. Hiram Stearns ain't likely to spunk up, and goodness, Lindy, what is the matter? Their ain't no trouble, is there? I know Mis' Stearns is—"

"Oh no!" Linda interrupted, in a choking voice; "everything is all right enough. But you know—well—I guess she must hate me!"

The mother did not put a protecting arm about her child, nor did her child draw nearer to her mother. Among the New England hills the reserve of the Puritan and the unconscious dread of many words are inborn. Nor would this decided woman have ventured, under ordinary circumstances, to advise her daughter in regard to a love affair. She felt now that she might speak, yet she disguised her feeling in an indignant tone.

"Well, you needn't fret for fear Hiram Stearns will rise up against anybody. An' I should hope, Lindy Gyles, you wouldn't want to go where yer wa'n't wanted. Not that your pa nor I ever had anything against Hiram. But he does take after his pa, who was real kind and clever—"

"Oh, ma!" broke in the girl, with some spirit, when her mother used the last word in its mild, New England sense, "I'm sure Hiram's more than clever. Everybody says, and pa says—"

"Yes, I know, Lindy, your pa does say he's the smartest man in 'The Grange'; but he knuckles to Mis' Stearns, just like his pa done before him. An' she never could git over our sending you away to school last winter. Her family always was rampajus, and she stews enough to wear the legs off 'n a cast-iron pot. Every hired man that lives there says that. There, I've been an' done an' said it, an' I should like to know ef she's been pitchin' into Hiram?"

"No—that is—Hiram didn't say so; but he won't say a word last night at singin' school." Linda spoke wearily, then added with less reserve, "I guess though he means to have a talk with her before long. I suppose she does think sights of him."

"Humph! thinks of him because he's her son, an' not 'cause he's himself. He's got his own life to live—when he ain't he just oughter stan' up an' tell her so. Your pa says if she was spoke as plain to once as she speaks to other folks, she'd come off on her high horse an' be kinder considerate. It's an awful thing for a person always to have their own way!"

The pair had now reached their own home on the straggling main street. The girl paused with her hand on the latch, listened a moment with nervous intensity, then murmured:

"You don't 'pose he's come and gone?"

"Land, no, of course he hain't! He always takes the ford road, an' you'd 'a' heard his buggy ef he'd drove by when we was at Aunt Hope's. Something may have turned up to hinder him a little; the men-folks are all 'round now seein' about pasturin' and changin' work."

Mrs. Gyles said this cheerfully, and there was a decisive air about her, before which Linda was borne into the house.

After the various kitchen clocks of the village had struck ten, not a light was visible save Aunt Hope's. Every one knew that "Aunt Hope never put out her lights in any sort o' season," and this evening she might have been seen moving about in her low-studded kitchen instead of seated braiding at the east window.

All her life Aunt Hope had known no way but "to love, honor, and obey." She had hidden her tears from her unrelenting husband after Hiram's angry leave-taking; she had obeyed a stern command, and had never spoken to the girl, who, after sharing her waiting a short time, had married an other admirer. Abijah May died, and then his wife was ruled only by an idea—the idea that Hiram would yet return. She had grown wizened and gray in its service, yet to-night a flush burned on either cheek.

She drew a little black and white checked shawl over her bent calico-clad shoulders, and, talking to herself, went slowly out of doors:

"I am beat out—moppin' that last room gits me a stitch in my side. But I must sit me a little more wood. It's real chillin', me, an' Hiram may come in all tankered out after ridin' so far in the cars. I didn't tell Mis' Gyles I'd been a moppin', she would 'a' fumed so. An' I don't let on I'd heard from Hiram. I didn't see what I done with that telegraph, but I'm sure I got it. Lemme see—it was yesterday. Lor', how took aweek folks will be when we walk into meetin' together—me an'

Hiram!" and the little sere figure trembled with noiseless laughter. She gathered up a few sticks and re-entered her house. Drawing her breath painfully, she sank into the straight-backed rocking-chair by the window.

"Dear me, how fetched I be for breath!" she panted; "but I have cleaned up. I'm real glad Mis' Gyles did bring in some vittals, ef I didn't really need 'em, for I'd like to get Hiram a real fillin' breakfast. I guess Hiram will see that the folks as he helped his mother is paid; but I'll keep on braidin' just the same. It does look slick here, ef nothin' more." She glanced about the room with evident satisfaction. The newly mopped floor had a braided rug before the cooking-stove; there was a table against the wall and a splint-bottomed arm-chair near the stove. On a lamp-stand beside the window stood the lamp, whose light, falling through an open door, illuminated the fresh patchwork quilt of a neatly made bed.

The clock on the mantle-piece was ticking toward eleven.

"Seems like that clock said: 'Hiram, Hiram,'" mused Aunt Hope. Just then the whistle of an arriving train made the silent night air quiver. With both hands pressed to her heart, Aunt Hope started to her feet. She put her face against the window pane, then drew quickly back.

"What a fool I be! As ef he could git right down here in a minute! I'll just sit down and wait like folks."

She sat down, but it was of no use. Ring again, she started out to her old post beside the fallen gate. Before she could reach it a man's step broke the hush that had closed in behind the departing train. As the sound fell on the old woman's listening ear she grasped an out-spreading lilac branch for support. The steps came rapidly on, and a tall, straight figure was passing up "The Lane" past her very gate. The old woman could not move her weak limbs.

"Hiram! Hiram!" The longing, the despair, the hope of thirty years was in that cry.

He heard. It stopped him in his path; it stopped the rushing blood in his veins when he heard his name called like that. He knew it was a mother's cry. Throwing down the small bag he carried, he rushed back into the yard; an old woman threw up her arms and fell unconscious against him.

He lifted and carried her tenderly into the house, where he laid her on the bed which the light showed him. He quickly brought water from the pail that stood beside the cupboard door, yet hardly expected to see the eyes open, although he wet forehead and lips. He laid his hand over the old woman's heart, and as he did so he moved and clasped it with both her own. Her eyes unclosed, to gaze with the inspired look of realized hope into the face of him who bent over her. Her lips moved twice before she could speak; then she said, weakly, still clinging to his hand:

"Yer knew yer ma's voice, didn't yer, Hiram, if yer had forgotten the old place? I had a kitch—I couldn't git no further; but I knew ef I could only call, ye'd know yer ma's voice. Blood is thicker'n water. Oh, how I be fetched for breath! An' I'm muusin' yer bed dreadful. I mus' git up; and she strove to rise.

"No, no, you just stay still," said the other, with gentle firmness. "I guess Mis' Gyles will come over and fix you up, I'll run over—"

"No, no, Hiram," she begged, "I don't want nobody but you 'round now. I'm comin' out of it all right. Set down—set down by the bed. You don't know how I've watched all these years an' never give up, just a-hopin' to see yer settin' by my side again. I know yer glad to come back from yer wanderin'—ef yer don't say much—meef folks don't run on as women-folks do." She closed her eyes a moment, then fixed them again on the sunburnt face that did not move away.

"I sided against yer, Hiram, an' I don't blame nobody for it," she said. After a few moments had elapsed she spoke again: "Yer eyes are brown like his'n—like his'n was when we was married. When I meet him, I can tell him it's all right, Hiram."

The brown eyes were full of tears.

"Yes, that's what I'd do," he said, hoarsely. "But yer gittin' tired, ain't you?"

"No; I'm better, and I want to git up. I'm muusin' yer bed." Then a strange gray shadow crept over her face, and the eyes grew strained in their gaze.

"Is it mornin', Hiram," she whispered.

"No, not yet," he answered soothingly. He felt the frail fingers releasing his strong ones.

"I guess it is mornin', Hiram. It's all bright outside the window. I hear the birds singin'—how yer curis shine! Sing too, Hiram—sing, Hiram."

The words were scarcely audible, and he could not see the old face plainly, for the mist that rose before his eyes.

"Sing," said Aunt Hope's lips breathed, and with a shaking voice Hiram Stearns sang what first came to him—a song the choir was just learning from the "New Collection":

"Come sweetly solemn thought  
Come to me o'er and o'er,  
I'm nearer home to-day  
Than I've ever been before."

"Nearer my Father's house,  
Where the many mansions be,  
Near or the Gr- at White Throne,  
Nearer the Jasper Sea."

As he sang his voice rose stronger and clearer, as though his soul had been tempted upward by that other one now seeking some one of the "many mansions."

To his young spirit, all hot and smarting from the sharp words of his jealous mother, had come a vision of the quick fleeing of the years, a vision of the pitiful waste that anger makes, and the pathos of mistakes.

He could not have expressed his feeling, but it would influence his life. In the sight of Aunt Hope's darkening eyes he had been his own son returned, not another's. Hiram felt glad, as he laid the hand which still rested in his across the quiet breast, that she had called, that he had heard. He stood gazing a moment at her peaceful face, then turned, and, without locking the door, the young man left the house of death.

The sun was rising; Hiram felt vaguely the beauty of his home hill-tops as he passed out of the yard. His soul awoke at the morning light and song of this world as had Aunt Hope's when the light of another dawned for her.

With earnest face he walked across lots toward the Gyles homestead. He knew that Mrs. Gyles would be up; he hoped Linda would not be. As he walked he drew from his pocket a letter. It was addressed to Miss Linda A. Gyles, Hillsdale, Mass.

He looked at it a moment, saying slowly: "She shall never know anything about it." So he tore the joyous thing into fragments, which the light morning breeze chased away from his sight forever.

On reaching the fence of the "home lot" he sprang over it just as Mrs. Gyles came out, pan in hand, to feed the chickens. There was a great cackling among these, and an exclamation of surprise from Mrs. Gyles:

"Mercy sakes alive! where did you come from, Hiram Stearns?"

"Only from Aunt Hope's house. I was coming by last night and she stopped me, and I've been there till now—"

"Then she's gone!" said Mrs. Gyles in a hushed tone. She knew by his face, and asked no questions. "Poor old critter. I oughter have staid; I kept thinkin' of her in the night, and I had a feelin' I oughter have staid. Why didn't you come right over for me, Hiram? I s'pose you was on your way here?"

He only replied: "Well, you see, she got it into her head I was her Hiram, and didn't want me to stir. I thought 'twould do more hurt than good if I did—"

"So it would ha'!" Tears stood in the eyes of both, but Mrs. Gyles hastily brushed hers away, and only said: "I mus' go an' git Aunt Phillindy an' go right over. You go in and find Lindy—she's sweepin' the front room. She'll git yer breakfast."

"No, thank you. I'll come over to-night, maybe; I must be going along home now; mother'll be in a worry."

And so she had been, after his leaving to "go west, where he could make a home for Linda Gyles." She had told him she could "run the farm alone," that he had better go. But when he was really gone she seemed, as she said to herself, "to lose all her grit." He had been her all—that was the trouble; she did not wish to share him with another. She would not even acknowledge this to herself, yet she knew there was nothing to be said against the girl he had chosen. Hiram's almost wordless anger and departure was something she could never have imagined, and it crushed her. Every train-whistle in the night had made her shiver. She was a wiry, black-eyed woman, who moved with a nervous quickness; but this morning her work "dragged," and at six o'clock the dishes were not done. She had set right and silent opposite the two hired men at breakfast, without explaining Hiram's absence. But now, in the midst of her dish-washing, a sense of her misery suddenly overpowered her. She sank into a chair beside the table, and burying her head in her apron, wept as only those who do seldom indulge in tears.

She did not hear the opening of the outside door. Hiram was beside her; he laid his hand upon her shoulder.

"I have come back, mother, to see if I can't at least go away peaceable."

"No, you can't," she cried, sharply, seizing his hand—"no, you can't! You musn't go at all; you can git her, if you want; this very minute, but you can't go west! If you do, I shall git to be just like Aunt Hope, an' everything 'll go to rack an' ruin."

"Come, mother, don't take on so. If you want us here, of course I want to stay; but now I want to tell you that Aunt Hope is gone! She stopped me last night, in her way, you know, and I was there—"

His mother looked at him solemnly.

"I see how it was. She thought you was her Hiram. I know you done yer best for her. Go hitch up, and I'll go down and help do what's left to do."

Both Mrs. Stearns and her son Hiram were calm and reserved again as they rode up the Lane toward Aunt Hope's house.—Harper's Bazar.

A Specimen of the New York English Heard in Court.

Those who have never attended the New York courts have little idea of the resources of the English language with an Irish accent.

Here is a slice of the proceedings before Recorder Smyth yesterday. Think of a learned man who heard the aldermanic testimony and sentenced the boot-lathers leaving to waste his time over petty cases like this. The chief witness said:

"Me name is Martha Carroll an' I'm livin' at number twenty-nine Mulberry strate an' me husband's name is 'Dinny,' an' I'm tellin' you the thruth yer Honor an' I was goin' to bed on the night of th' twinty-ninth of June when I heard a noise in th' alley an' I put me skirt on an' I jumped into me boots without waitin' to put on me stockin's an' I runs out an' I sees me husband, 'Dinny,' quarrellin' wid Walter Macchellin—"

"For heaven's sake, woman, wait a minute," said the Recorder, as Martha drew a half breath and braced herself for another act of testimony.

"Oi wull, yer Honor, but I was that sore from the kickin' that man gave me I laid flat on me back for noine days, nait' nayth' bite nor sup, an' me head dizzy wid th' pain of the thumpin' he gave it unable to do me wurruk an' th' doctor 'tandin' to me an'—"

"Woman, if you don't keep quiet I'll send you to the Tombs," thundered the Recorder. "Tell that jury just what you know of the assault; nothing more and nothing less."

"Ather I put on me skirt I ran into th' alley an' I seen Dinny wid his hand raised an' Walter Macchellin standin' formin' him an' I tuk Dinny be the two arms an' me standin' betune him and Macchellin an' I says says I, 'Don't ye hit him agin, Dinny,' an' Dinny didn't hit him wid his hand but he kicked me up agin the floor an' he bate me quite savaire about th' head an' I walked th' flure the whole o' the night so I did wid th' pain an' puttin' on wurruk flannels an' mustard an' me husband runnin' around for the doctor an' couldn't find one we bein' strangers as you may say an' me brother-in-law kapin' me company an' me sick wid th' pain an' I riverpined me breath to Macchellin an' he callin' me husband a thafe all the time."

Here the court took a recess for air, food, and water.—New York Times.

## In the African Diamond Mines.

"One of the most curious sights to be seen at the diamond mines," said a recently returned trader, "is the inspection of the Kafirs as they come up out of the mines each day. These natives are hired for a period of six months, during which time they are not allowed to go outside the enclosure at the top of the mine, called 'the compound,' containing only a circle of huts in which they sleep and a store at which they may purchase tobacco, snuff, beads, and trinkets dear to the savage heart. They work constantly in the presence of white inspectors who watch them closely to prevent the secreting of any diamonds about their person during the day, and at night when they come up out of the mine they are led out one by one through a narrow passage, fenced in on either side with barbed wire fences, and each man removes the little bit of clothing he wears before he enters the narrow door which admits him to the inspector's room. His clothing he carries in his hand to the officer, who proceeds to examine it carefully; then looks into the Kafir's ears and nostrils and mouth, under his tongue, between his toes, into the snuff or tobacco box he sometimes carries, and feels all through his woolly hair. The Kafirs frequently cut a deep gash in the fleshy part of the hip, into which they insert a diamond and then bind it up in such a way as to entirely conceal the stone, and another common trick is to cut and irritate a place on their legs until it becomes a deep wound, in which they may secret a diamond with small chance of detection. Occasionally a Kafir will swallow a diamond, and, if undiscovered, will hasten home and take an emetic to recover the stone. If, however, the inspector suspects him, he is compelled to take the emetic in his presence, which frequently results in the discovery of the concealed stone. At the end of the six months the gang of natives are discharged and return to their tribe, and another set of workmen take their place. As soon as they receive the small amount of money paid them for their labor, they proceed to invest it in some of the most singular purchases. A favorite possession is a small American trunk with a lock and key, which they fill with various trinkets and ornaments, and if they can find and purchase an English officer's scarlet coat, they put it on over their bare skin and walk off with the trunk under their arm as proud as peacocks."

"The natives know well the value of the precious stones they handle, and in spite of all precautions, it is believed that very many are stolen every year. It is impossible to wash the soil so thoroughly that some small stones will not remain. A woman living near a mine kept a quantity of fowls which, when killed, very often had among the pebbles in their crops, the small rough diamonds which they had picked up, attracted by their glitter. An English lady had employed this woman as a nurse, and, learning of the little box of stones she had collected from her fowls, the lady sold them for her servant in London, receiving for them a little more than \$100."

Along South America's West Coast.

The products of the country are sugar, coffee, cocoa and cotton, while those of the towns are "Panama hats" and fleas. In each of the ports the natives are busy braiding hats from vegetable fiber, and the results of their labor find a market at Panama and in the cities of the coast, where, as in Mexico, a man's wealth is judged by what he wears on his head. The hats are usually made of toquilla, or pita, an arborescent plant of the cactus family, the leaves of which are often several yards long. When cut, the leaf is dried, and then whipped into shreds almost as fine and tough as silk. Some hats are made of single fibers, without a splice or an end from the center of the crown to the rim. It often requires two or three months to make them, and the best ones are braided under water, as the fiber is more pliable when immersed. The cost of a single hat is sometimes \$250, but such last a lifetime, and can be packed in a vest pocket, or worn inside out, each side being as smooth and well finished as the other.

The natives make beautiful cigar cases, too, but it is difficult for a stranger to purchase either these or the hats, because they have an idea that all travellers are rich, and will pay any price that is asked. One old lady produced a cigar case, such as is sold in Japanese stores for \$1 or \$2, and politely offered to sell it for \$30. When I told her I could get a silver one for that price, she came down to \$15, then to \$12, and finally to \$1. They have no idea of the value of money, and are habitually imposed upon by local traders, who exchange food for their hats at enormous figures.—American Magazine.

Saint Bridget.

A correspondent of the N. Y. Press writes that journal:

The Irishwoman of to-day is the worthy daughter of the sweet St. Bridget (now spelled Bridget) of thirteen centuries ago, and whose story, as told at Linstown, may not be known to some of you.

When young, Bridget was so strangely beautiful that lovers from all over the country and across the sea came to kneel at her feet. In fact, they were so persistent and ardent that, wearied of them, she prayed for some disease to destroy her beauty that she might uninterruptedly devote herself to the service of God. Instantly she was smitten with smallpox, which, however, only disfigured one side of her beautiful face, leaving the other quite as perfect as before. Then she took the veil, and instituted a religious order, which many young and noble maidens joined. When her followers became numerous she applied to the King of Linstown for a piece of land on which to build a nunnery.

Bridget, the saint, was then submerged in Bridget, the woman, who begged the favor with the beautiful side of her face turned to the monarch, who, it is needless to add, succumbed at once, and granted her request.

Now it happened the Queen was not "in the pantry eating bread and honey," and being old, ugly and jealous, by a subterfuge forced Bridget to expose the disfigured side of her countenance to the King, who, in true royal fashion, at once took back his promise, and it was only after many prayers and entreaties that he consented to be-

## stow as much land as her shawl would cover.

Now Bridget became every inch a woman, as the sequel shows. Six months after her petition she appeared at court to claim the King's promise, and in the presence of a grand assemblage removed a snow white shawl from her innocent shoulders, woven by her own hands. Four of her maidens seized by the corners, and ran respectively east, west, north and south. Behold, the shawl was of some silky stuff like that, stretched and spread and spread and stretch until it covered every inch of the ground of Kildare. The unwitting King submitted as gracefully as he could. On the green undulating meadows Bridget's nunnery was built, and the pilgrims and mendicants who gathered there formed the nucleus of the present town of Kildare.

The Irishwoman of to-day has many of the qualities that distinguished St. Bridget. She is good, generous, and without reproach. She knows the value of her glancing eye, her perfect skin, the tendril twist of her hair and the charm of her little foot and hand. When her beauty fails her ready wit puts every time a man at a disadvantage. As far as history goes the Irishwoman has been famous for the beauty of her needle-work, and fine needlework demands patience, industry and taste.

Trouble at the Stamp Window.

A lady approached the stamp window at the post office and handing the clerk a postage stamp, asked to have it exchanged as there was no mudilage on it.

"We never exchange stamps," said the clerk politely. "You have mistaken the stamp too much is the reason it does not stick."

"No, I didn't," replied the lady. "I guess I know how to put on a stamp. I've put on more stamps than you ever saw. Are you going to give me another stamp?"

"I told you we didn't exchange stamps," "Well," snapped the overbored lady, "I should think Uncle Sam would take his own money back at this office. I had a lot exchanged at Duluth. You put on entirely too many airs for a clerk. There! You know what I think of you."

A lady with an armful of bundles approached the stamp window. "Here, weigh and stamp this bundle," said she.

"We weigh them but you must stamp them yourself," said the clerk.

"Well, you are not very wise to compel me to lay all these bundles down to put a stamp on. What are you there for anyway?"

"I'm not here to stick on stamps for every person who comes with a lot of bundles. Some of you people must think stamp clerks have India rubber fingers."







